

Message Text

SECRET

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61

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O 312110Z JUL 75 ZFF-4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN HELSINKI

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 8088

EXDIS

FROM HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI GR US MARR

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY

REF:ATHENS 5781

1. FOR AMBASSADOR. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL BITSIOS HAD BEEN INFORMED BY AVEROFF OF YOUR DEMARCHE IN ATHENS. BITSIOS GAVE SOME OF THE BACKGROUND SAYING THAT IN THEIR JUDGEMENT THE AMMUNITION HAD BEEN TAKEN DURING THE TIME THE JUNTA WAS STILL IN POWER. HE SAID THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD MUCH PREFER TO PAY FOR THE MISSING AMMUNITION RATHER THAN RETURN IT BECAUSE IT WAS IN GREAT NEED AND SOME AMMUNITION SIMILAR TO THAT HAD ALREADY BEEN ORDERED BY THE GREEKS BUT WOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO DELIVER. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE CASE AND FURTHER FOUND IT RATHER INCREDIBLE THAT SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME WENT BY BEFORE WE DISCOVERED THAT THE AMMUNITION WAS MISSING. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND THEREFORE THE GREEKS DID NOT HAVE TO TAKE ACTION IMMEDIATELY. HE SAID THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE TO TURN THE AMMUNITION OVER TO THE GREEKS SINCE IT HAS UNDOUBTEDLY NOT APPEARED IN ANY OF OUR PROGRAMMED DOCUMENTS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED SCEPTICISM ABOUT ESTABLISHING A PRINCIPLE WHERE ANYONE

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COULD TAKE THINGS FROM US AND THEN WE SELL THEM TO

THEM BUT IN ANY CASE HE PROMISED TO HAVE ANOTHER LOOK
AT THE QUESTION WHEN HE RETURNED.

2. FOR THE DEPARTMENT, YOU SHOULD PREPARE A MEMORANDUM
FOR THE SECRETARY GIVING THE FULL BACKGROUND ON THIS
CASE INCLUDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE DIS-
COVERY THAT THE PROBLEM EXISTED. YOU SHOULD ALSO
PUT TO THE SECRETARY THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR
DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM AND THEIR PROS AND CONS IN
TERMS OF PRECEDENT AND EFFECTS ON RELATIONS WITH GREECE,
PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF AVEROFF'S REACTION.

KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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